in association with information [to each keyword];

[the] an arithmetic step of executing a predetermined arithmetic operation for the weight value of each keyword of the input information and the weight value of each keyword of each of the plurality of candidate information; and

[the] a selection step of selecting [target] output information from the plurality of candidate information based on [the basis of] a sum value of arithmetic results obtained by performing the predetermined arithmetic operation for substantially all keywords of each of the plurality of candidate information in [the] said arithmetic step.

B1
A1
Cont.

2. (Amended) The method according to claim 1, [characterized in that] wherein

the predetermined arithmetic operation is multiplication of the weight values, and

information [having] corresponding to a [larger] large sum value of the arithmetic results is selected as the output information.

3. (Amended) The method according to claim 2, [characterized in that] wherein

the weight value [has] includes a sign determined in

advance for each keyword [in advance], and

when [the] a result of the predetermined arithmetic operation for [the] weight values of a set of keywords has a relatively large positive value, it is determined that [the relation] a relationship is strong.

B1 A1 Cont.

4. (Amended) The method according to claim 1, [characterized by] further comprising:

[the] an input step of inputting the input information from a predetermined terminal;

[the] a first storage step of storing contents of the plurality of candidate information in an information provider server; and

[the] a second storage step of storing the keywords of each of the plurality of candidate information and the weight values of the keywords in a management server.

5. (Amended) A search method of searching for output information strongly related to input information from a plurality of candidate information, [characterized by] said method comprising:

[the] a registration step of registering in advance one or [a plurality of] more keywords representing selectivity to

the input information; and

[the] a selection step of selecting, as the output information, information [having] corresponding to a [larger] large number of keywords [having] with values close to [the] a value of the one or [the plurality of] more keywords from the plurality of candidate information.

B1
A1 Cont.

6. (Amended) The method according to claim 5, [characterized by] further comprising:

[the] a first storage step of storing the plurality of candidate information in an information provider server; and

[the] a second storage step of storing the one or [the plurality of] more keywords representing selectivity to the input information in a management server.

7. (Amended) The method according to claim 5, [characterized in that] wherein

the input information is specific information corresponding to a predetermined code [input] inputted by a user, and

each of the plurality of candidate information is information to be attached to the specific information and presented to the user.

8. (Amended) A search method of searching for output information strongly related to input information from a plurality of candidate information, [characterized by] said method comprising:

[the] an assignment step of assigning in advance to the input information one or [a plurality of] more information keywords typically representing information [to the input information and], assigning in advance to each of the plurality of candidate information one or more information keywords, and assigning in advance to each information keyword a weight value set in association with information [to each information keyword];

[the] a registration step of registering in advance one or [a plurality of] more user keywords representing selectivity to the input information;

[the] an arithmetic step of executing a predetermined arithmetic operation for the weight value of each [of the plurality of] information [keywords] keyword of the input information and the weight value of each information keyword of each of the plurality of candidate information;

[the] a calculation step of calculating a sum value of arithmetic results obtained by performing the predetermined arithmetic operation for substantially all information keywords

of each candidate information in [the] said arithmetic step;

[the] a quantification step of quantifying [the] a degree of matching between each information keyword of each of the plurality of candidate information and [said] the one or [the plurality of] more user keywords; and

B1 A1 Cont.

[the] a selection step of selecting, as the output information, [the] a largest candidate information from a result obtained by adding quantified values obtained in [the] said quantification step to the sum value.

9. (Amended) The method according to claim 8, [characterized by] further comprising a storage step of storing in advance [an] at least one apparatus keyword of a terminal apparatus for outputting the output information and a weight value of each apparatus keyword, and taking the weight value of each apparatus keyword into consideration.

10. (Amended) A computer-readable storage medium [which stores] storing a program for [causing a computer to execute the] implementing an information providing method [of] according to claim 1.

Please add Claims 12-38 as follows:

12. An apparatus for searching for output information strongly related to input information from a plurality of candidate information, said apparatus comprising:

an assignment unit, adapted to assign in advance to the input information one or more keywords typically representing information corresponding to the input information, to assign in advance to each of the plurality of candidate information at least one keyword, and to assign in advance to each keyword a weight value that is set in association with information;

an calculator, adapted to execute a predetermined arithmetic operation for the weight value of each keyword of the input information and the weight value of each keyword of each of the plurality of candidate information; and

a selector, adapted to select output information from the plurality of candidate information based on a sum value of arithmetic results obtained by performing the predetermined arithmetic operation for substantially all keywords of each of the plurality of candidate information using said calculator.

13. The apparatus according to claim 12, wherein

the predetermined arithmetic operation is multiplication of the weight values, and

information corresponding to a large sum value of the

arithmetic results is selected as the output information.

14. The apparatus according to claim 13, wherein the weight value includes a sign determined in advance for each keyword, and

when a result of the predetermined arithmetic operation for weight values of a set of keywords has a relatively large positive value, it is determined that a relationship is strong.

15. The apparatus according to claim 12, further comprising:

an input unit, adapted to input the input information from a predetermined terminal;

a first storage unit, adapted to store contents of the plurality of candidate information in an information provider server; and

a second storage unit, adapted to store the keywords of each of the plurality of candidate information and the weight values of the keywords in a management server.

16. An apparatus for searching for output information strongly related to input information from a

plurality of candidate information, said apparatus comprising:

a registration unit, adapted to register in advance one or more keywords representing selectivity to the input information; and

a selector, adapted to select, as the output information, information corresponding to a large number of keywords with values close to a value of the one or more keywords from the plurality of candidate information.

17. The apparatus according to claim 16, further comprising:

a first storage unit, adapted to store the plurality of candidate information in an information provider server; and

a second storage unit, adapted to store the one or more keywords representing selectivity to the input information in a management server.

18. The apparatus according to claim 16, wherein

the input information is specific information corresponding to a predetermined code inputted by a user, and

each of the plurality of candidate information is information to be attached to the specific information and presented to the user.

19. An apparatus for searching for output information strongly related to input information from a plurality of candidate information, said apparatus comprising:

an assignment unit, adapted to assign in advance to the input information one or more information keywords typically representing information, to assign in advance to each of the plurality of candidate information one or more information keywords, and to assign in advance to each information keyword a weight value set in association with information;

A2 cont.

a registration unit, adapted to register in advance one or more user keywords representing selectivity to the input information;

a calculator, adapted to execute a predetermined arithmetic operation for the weight value of each information keyword of the input information and the weight value of each information keyword of each of the plurality of candidate information;

a summation unit, adapted to calculate a sum value of arithmetic results obtained by performing the predetermined arithmetic operation for substantially all information keywords of each candidate information using said calculator;

a quantification unit, adapted to quantify a degree of matching between each information keyword of each of the

plurality of candidate information and the one or more user keywords; and

a selector, adapted to select, as the output information, a largest candidate information from a result obtained by adding quantified values obtained from said quantification unit to the sum value.

20. The apparatus according to claim 19, further comprising a storage unit, adapted to store in advance at least one apparatus keyword of a terminal apparatus for outputting the output information and a weight value of each apparatus keyword, and to take the weight value of each apparatus keyword into consideration.

21. A computer program product embodying a program for implementing a search method of searching for output information strongly related to input information from a plurality of candidate information, the program comprising:

program code for an assignment step of assigning in advance to the input information one or more keywords typically representing information corresponding to the input information, assigning in advance to each of the plurality of candidate information at least one keyword, and assigning in advance to

each keyword a weight value that is set in association with information;

program code for an arithmetic step of executing a predetermined arithmetic operation for the weight value of each keyword of the input information and the weight value of each keyword of each of the plurality of candidate information; and

program code for a selection step of selecting output information from the plurality of candidate information based on a sum value of arithmetic results obtained by performing the predetermined arithmetic operation for substantially all keywords of each of the plurality of candidate information in the arithmetic step.

22. The computer program product according to claim 21, wherein

the predetermined arithmetic operation is multiplication of the weight values, and

information corresponding to a large sum value of the arithmetic results is selected as the output information.

23. The computer program product according to claim 22, wherein

the weight value includes a sign determined in

advance for each keyword, and

when a result of the predetermined arithmetic operation for weight values of a set of keywords has a relatively large positive value, it is determined that a relationship is strong.

Sub B5 24. The computer program product according to claim 21, wherein the program further comprises:

A2 cont.

program code for an input step of inputting the input information from a predetermined terminal;

program code for a first storage step of storing contents of the plurality of candidate information in an information provider server; and

program code for a second storage step of storing the keywords of each of the plurality of candidate information and the weight values of the keywords in a management server.

25. A computer program product embodying a program for implementing a search method of searching for output information strongly related to input information from a plurality of candidate information, the program comprising:

program code for a registration step of registering in advance one or more keywords representing selectivity to the

input information; and

program code for a selection step of selecting, as the output information, information corresponding to a large number of keywords with values close to a value of the one or more keywords from the plurality of candidate information.

26. The computer program product according to claim 25, wherein the program further comprises:

program code for a first storage step of storing the plurality of candidate information in an information provider server; and

program code for a second storage step of storing the one or more keywords representing selectivity to the input information in a management server.

27. The computer program product according to claim 25, wherein

the input information is specific information corresponding to a predetermined code inputted by a user, and

each of the plurality of candidate information is information to be attached to the specific information and presented to the user.

28. A computer program product embodying a program for implementing a search method of searching for output information strongly related to input information from a plurality of candidate information, the program comprising:

program code for an assignment step of assigning in advance to the input information one or more information keywords typically representing information, assigning in advance to each of the plurality of candidate information one or more information keywords, and assigning in advance to each information keyword a weight value set in association with information;

program code for a registration step of registering in advance one or more user keywords representing selectivity to the input information;

program code for an arithmetic step of executing a predetermined arithmetic operation for the weight value of each information keyword of the input information and the weight value of each information keyword of each of the plurality of candidate information;

program code for a calculation step of calculating a sum value of arithmetic results obtained by performing the predetermined arithmetic operation for substantially all information keywords of each candidate information in the arithmetic step;

program code for a quantification step of quantifying a degree of matching between each information keyword of each of the plurality of candidate information and the one or more user keywords; and

program code for a selection step of selecting, as the output information, a largest candidate information from a result obtained by adding quantified values obtained in the quantification step to the sum value.

29. The computer program product according to claim 28, wherein the program further comprises program code for a storage step of storing in advance at least one apparatus keyword of a terminal apparatus for outputting the output information and a weight value of each apparatus keyword, and taking the weight value of each apparatus keyword into consideration.

30. A computer data signal embodied in a propagating wave and used for implementing a search method of searching for output information strongly related to input information from a plurality of candidate information, comprising:

an assignment code signal used in an assignment step of assigning in advance to the input information one or more keywords typically representing information corresponding to the

input information, assigning in advance to each of the plurality of candidate information at least one keyword, and assigning in advance to each keyword a weight value that is set in association with information;

an arithmetic code signal used in an arithmetic step of executing a predetermined arithmetic operation for the weight value of each keyword of the input information and the weight value of each keyword of each of the plurality of candidate information; and

a selection code signal used in a selection step of selecting output information from the plurality of candidate information based on a sum value of arithmetic results obtained by performing the predetermined arithmetic operation for substantially all keywords of each of the plurality of candidate information in the arithmetic step.

31. The computer data signal according to claim 30, wherein

the predetermined arithmetic operation is multiplication of the weight values, and

information corresponding to a large sum value of the arithmetic results is selected as the output information.

32. The computer data signal according to claim 31, wherein

the weight value includes a sign determined in advance for each keyword, and

when a result of the predetermined arithmetic operation for weight values of a set of keywords has a relatively large positive value, it is determined that a relationship is strong.

33. The computer data signal according to claim 30, further comprising:

an input code signal used in an input step of inputting the input information from a predetermined terminal;

a first storage signal used in a first storage step of storing contents of the plurality of candidate information in an information provider server; and

a second storage signal used in a second storage step of storing the keywords of each of the plurality of candidate information and the weight values of the keywords in a management server.

34. A computer data signal embodied in a propagating wave and used for implementing a search method of searching for

output information strongly related to input information from a plurality of candidate information, comprising:

a registration code signal used in a registration step of registering in advance one or more keywords representing selectivity to the input information; and

a selection code signal used in a selection step of selecting, as the output information, information corresponding to a large number of keywords with values close to a value of the one or more keywords from the plurality of candidate information.

35. The computer data signal according to claim 34, further comprising:

a first storage code signal used in a first storage step of storing the plurality of candidate information in an information provider server; and

a second storage code signal used in a second storage step of storing the one or more keywords representing selectivity to the input information in a management server.

36. The computer data signal according to claim 34, wherein

the input information is specific information corresponding to a predetermined code inputted by a user, and

each of the plurality of candidate information is information to be attached to the specific information and presented to the user.

37. A computer data signal embodied in a propagating wave and used for implementing a search method of searching for output information strongly related to input information from a plurality of candidate information, the program comprising:

an assignment code signal used in an assignment step of assigning in advance to the input information one or more information keywords typically representing information, assigning in advance to each of the plurality of candidate information one or more information keywords, and assigning in advance to each information keyword a weight value set in association with information;

a registration code signal used in a registration step of registering in advance one or more user keywords representing selectivity to the input information;

an arithmetic code signal used in an arithmetic step of executing a predetermined arithmetic operation for the weight value of each information keyword of the input information and the weight value of each information keyword of each of the plurality of candidate information;

a calculation code signal used in a calculation step of calculating a sum value of arithmetic results obtained by performing the predetermined arithmetic operation for substantially all information keywords of each candidate information in the arithmetic step;

a quantification code signal used in a quantification step of quantifying a degree of matching between each information keyword of each of the plurality of candidate information and the one or more user keywords; and

a selection code signal used in a selection step of selecting, as the output information, a largest candidate information from a result obtained by adding quantified values obtained in the quantification step to the sum value.

38. The computer data signal according to claim 37, further comprising a storage code signal used in a storage step of storing in advance at least one apparatus keyword of a terminal apparatus for outputting the output information and a weight value of each apparatus keyword, and taking the weight value of each apparatus keyword into consideration.--

REMARKS

Claims 1-10 and 12-38 are pending in the present